

Bird Banding Accomplishments 2003

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Abstract

Through the cooperative efforts of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologists within the Bureaus of Wildlife Management, Endangered Resources, and Integrated Science Services, a total of 5,887 birds were banded in Wisconsin in 2003. Sixteen species of birds including ducks, geese, swans, eagles, hawks, woodcock, loons, and terns were banded at 118 sites across the state.

Background

For over 35 years the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has organized extensive bird banding operations on state wildlife areas and private property at many locations across the state. Wildlife biologists within the bureaus of Wildlife Management, Endangered Resources, and Integrated Science Services cooperate to band birds to meet specific research needs and to meet banding quotas assigned by the Mississippi Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Methods

Wild birds were captured using a variety of techniques including night-lighting, bait-trapping, drive trapping, mist-netting, and cannon-netting. Once the age and sex of the captured birds were determined, they were fitted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands. The band numbers, age, and sex of these birds were recorded on field sheets. Colored neck collars were placed on swans to satisfy the requirements of specific research projects. In addition, 243 geese were transported to one new release site to establish new populations. Specially prepared banding schedules were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland for permanent storage. Permanent banding records were also stored at the DNR Field Office at Horicon, Wisconsin.

Results

A total of 5,887 birds of 16 species were banded in 2003 at 118 locations in Wisconsin. A Total of 2,419 resident Canada geese were banded at 46 sites and 243 were transported to an additional site. A total of 1,842 mallard ducks were banded at six sites, 82 blue-winged teal were banded at two sites, and 486 wood ducks were banded at seven sites. Eighteen bald eagles were banded at 12 sites, 13 osprey were banded at eight sites, 110 trumpeter swans were banded at fourteen sites, 67 common loons were banded at 20 sites, and 796 common terns were banded at 2 sites.

Table 1. Banding Summary for 2003.

Age and Sex

Species	Adult			Hatch Year			Local			Total
	F	M	U	F	M	U	F	M	U	
Green-winged Teal	1	1								2
Black Duck		2								2
Mallard Duck	306	128	1	719	688					1842
Northern Pintail	10	9		1						20
Wood duck	55	228		87	116					486
Blue-winged Teal	21	61								82
American Wigeon	1									1
Canada Goose										
Wild banded	165	266					927	818		2176
Neck-collared										0
Banded & Transported									243	243
Trumpeter Swan	3	4	2				26	26	49	110
American Woodcock		3							1	4
Common Tern			106						690	796
Common Loon	19	16	2						30	67
Red-Shouldered Hawk									8	8
Northern Goshawk							7		10	17
Bald Eagle							7	11		18
Osprey									13	13
TOTAL	581	718	111	807	804		967	855	1044	5887